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ODP 81-079  
19 January 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Management Staff, DDA

FROM: Bruce T. Johnson  
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT: DCI-Designate Casey Briefings

REFERENCE: Memo [redacted] dtd 13 Jan. 81, same  
subject

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1. There are no activities in ODP which merit a place on the DDA's list of issues needing immediate DCI-level attention. If for reasons of comprehensiveness some ODP items of interest are desired to round out an initial briefing on current Directorate activities, I would suggest SAFE, CAMS2, and the 4C (Community-wide Computer-assisted Compartmentation Control) System. Of these only 4C is likely to come to Mr. Casey's attention as a problem, and only because of the outstanding request to Congress to lift the [redacted] cap they put on APEX expenditures for FY-81. At [redacted] urging, the DCI has asked for an additional \$800,000 (still well within the [redacted] budgeted for APEX) to permit full development of the 4C system. Attached are copies of the memoranda to the two Congressional committees, together with the study which outlines the consequences of inadequate FY-81 funding.

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2. One other outstanding item which could conceivably be referred by the incoming Secretary of Commerce to the new DCI is our request for a delegation of waiver authority under Federal Information Processing Standards Publications 60-63. A copy of the request is attached. We understand that Commerce is considering a general delegation to all heads of agencies, which would solve our problem. I do not believe this needs to be discussed in the initial briefing, however.

/s/ Bruce T. Johnson

Bruce T. Johnson

Att: a/s

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DOA 80-241

CIA LETTERHEAD  
5 Nov. 1980

ODP-0-1640  
4 NOV 1980

Dr. Jordan J. Baruch  
Assistant Secretary for Productivity,  
Technology and Innovation  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Dr. Baruch:

For some time now, members of my staff have expressed serious concern about the security implications of waiver procedures for Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), where waiver authority does not reside with the Agency head. On 7 October, CIA officials met with Mr. Don Malone of the Department of Commerce, Office of the General Counsel to discuss FIPS waiver procedures. Mr. Malone reviewed the recently implemented waiver procedures for FIPS 60-63, where waiver authority has been assigned to the Secretary of Commerce, who, in turn, has delegated that authority to you. As Mr. Malone described the waiver procedure, individuals from your staff as well as the National Bureau of Standards will review FIPS waiver applications and make recommendations for approval or disapproval of the waiver request. As described in the FIPS PUBS, the waiver request must include "1) a description of the existing or planned ADP system for which the waiver is being requested, 2) a description of the system configuration, identifying those items for which the waiver is being requested, and including a description of planned expansion of the system configuration at any time during its life cycle, and 3) a justification for the waiver, including a description and discussion of the major adverse economic or operational impact that would result through conformance to this standard as compared to the alternative for which the waiver is requested."

Such a waiver request procedure and the documentation it requires are cause for considerable security concern to senior CIA management. Under the statutory provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the DCI is charged with the responsibility for protecting intelligence sources and methods.

Relating this to current and anticipated ADPE acquisitions, it is our considered judgment that disclosure through the waiver process of the Agency's capabilities and location of its resources would not only adversely affect the proper discharge of this responsibility but would also, in some cases, represent a grave threat to national security. Our ADPE, whether general purpose or unique to our requirements, is utilized for extremely sensitive intelligence information processing, communications, and real-time intelligence-operation requirements. The type and location of equipment represent for foreign intelligence agencies prime targets in terms of operational utilization, equipment capabilities, or the readability of signal emanations. Of equal significance is the fact that, in certain instances, identification with the Agency of specific equipment or sites of operations could be extremely embarrassing to the United States or to friendly foreign governments.

For these reasons it is my firm opinion that a delegation of waiver authority to the Director of Central Intelligence with appropriate redelegation authority would best protect the national security interests involved in the acquisition and use of ADPE by the Central Intelligence Agency for intelligence information processing, communications, and intelligence operational applications. To assist in the discharge of your responsibilities related to ADPE standards, I would propose that on an annual basis representatives from our respective agencies meet to review, on a classified basis, CIA implementation of waiver procedures. In addition, we would be pleased to exchange or provide such technical advice in the ADP field as you may wish.

A similar procedure has been in effect for several years between CIA and the General Services Administration (GSA) with respect to the procurement of ADP equipment and services. GSA has provided CIA a blanket delegation of procurement authority subject to annual GSA review. GSA has conducted several such reviews and has expressed satisfaction that we have appropriately implemented ADP procurement policy and regulations.

I would be pleased to make available the appropriate members of my staff to develop in conjunction with your representatives a suitable delegation of waiver authority. Please feel free to call Mr. Bruce Johnson, my Director of Data Processing, to answer any technical or procedural questions you or your staff may have. Mr. Johnson may be reached on

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Your favorable consideration of our request would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Don I. Wortman  
Deputy Director  
for  
Administration

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